GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4074
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
REHABILITATION OF SAFAI KARAMCHARIS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made efforts to ameliorate improve the condition of the `Safai Karamcharis by constituting the National Commission for Safai Karamchari so as tobring them at par with others but the practice of carrying night soil on head is still going on in some States;

(b) whether the Government are providing assistance to the State Government for generatingthe avenues of alternative employment for them;

(c) if so, the number of Safai Karamcharis involved therein and the annual financial aid provided to these States during the year, State-wise: and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for the emanicipation of these Safai Karamcharis and generating the avenues of alternative employment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was constituted on 12th August, 1994.Its term was latter extended upto 31st March, 2002. The Commission is iter-alia expected torecommend to the Central Government specific programmes of action for elimination of inequalities and status, facilities and opportunities for Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate implementation of programmes and schemes relating to social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis.

(b) Yes, Sir. Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs under the National Scheme ofLiberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents for liberating them from the hereditary and inhuman occupation of manually removing of night soil and filth and providing them avenues to engage in alternative and dignified occupations.

(c) About 5.77 lakh scavengers have been identified in the country to be financially assisted under the scheme. Upon 1998-99, 1.35 lakh scavengers have been trained and 3.25 lakh scavengers assisted for rehabilitation under the scheme. During 1999-2000, Central Assistance of Rs. 70 crores has been sanctioned towards assisting 83393 scavengers, the State-wise details of which are given below:-

S.No.	State/UT	Central Assistance Sanctioned (Rs, In lakhs)	Scavengers likely to be assisted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1041.055	6,025
2.	Gujarat	1160.59	15,000
3.	Madhya Pradesh	883.375	15,000
4.	Rajasthan	1661.79	22,368
5.	Tamil Nadu	2253.19	25,000
	Total	7000.00	83,393

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been pursuing the State/UTs toaggressively promote the scheme and took the initiative of proposing to them, the adoption of the concept of Sanitary Marts, as is being successfully implemented in the State of

West Bengal, for the liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers. Several State Governments havesince adopted this concept and accordingly the proposals for the establishment of 3336 Sanitary Marts have been sanctioned during 1999-2000 at a cost of Rs. 70 crores under the scheme. The National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) whichwas set up by Government of India in January, 1997 also acts as apex institution for allround socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis and their dependents by extending to them concessional financial assistance for establishment of income generating and viable ventures/projects. The assistance includes:-

1. Term Loan assistance for projects costing upto Rs. 5 lacs to a maximum of 90% of project cost. Promoters` contribution is not to be insisted upon, upto project cost of Rs. 2.00 lacs. 100% working capital required by the unit is made part of the unit cost of financing.

2. Bridge Loan assistance provided against investment subsidy sanctioned or anyother source of funds sanctioned by any recognized agencies for projects costing upto Rs. 5 lacs.

3. Grant for Skill and Entrepreneurial Development Programmes is provide upto 90%. The Corporation since inception has disbursed Rs. 34.91 crores benefiting 8473 persons in 18 States/UTs.